SWARC NEWS

Notes from K7RLH

The second meeting, of our two holiday-type meetings, is in the books. Thanks to all who provided food/drink/desserts for the event. There was no program and lots of lively discussion and camaraderie was shared around the tables.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, Velda, K4VJC, and Steve, KA0GMY.

Steve, KA0GMY, will have a couple of surgeries right after Christmas, so remember him, Steve Jr., and Miss Gloria as well.

Look for other news and info in the body of the newsletter.

And, before I forget, I hope each of you and your families have a wonderful holiday season.

SWARC de K7RLH

Notes from KO4ZFO

Happy Holidays All! I hope your family stays safe & warm this holiday season. Don't forget our program next month on "POTA". I will be sending more information out as it gets closer to the meeting. We are planning on doing a Zoom meeting for all of those who cannot make it in person. Also, if there is anyone interested in ordering a SWARC T-Shirt, we are gathering all of those interested so we can get an estimate of how many people are interested so we can shop around for the best price. Anyone interested in ordering a shirt can email me with quantity/size information. We are planning to put in an order so that we can have those shirts printed before RARSFEST in 2023. So ,show your support with a SWARC T-Shirt.

73 Everyone and Happy Holiday!

SWARC 7 December 2022 Meeting Recap

Since we currently have no club secretary, here is a recap of the meeting.

There was lots of really good food and desserts enjoyed by the attendees listed below.

Attendees included:
Richard Hall (K7RLH) and wife Sharon, Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Linda Crawford (KI4LO), Mike Gaither (K4MWG), Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), Brian Knox (KK4BK), Dave Krum (NW3U), Dave (K4MSE), Greg Gabry (N9PGG), Steve (WB4SMS) and wife Liz, Christy (KJ4AEO), Mike (KD4OKR), Ryan (NC4RA) and two of his children, Robert Walker (no call yet) and wife Debbie.

Old/Unfinished Business (This will remain until the committee has resolved the constitutional change and brought it up for vote to the membership.)

Our constitution requires at least 30% of ‘full’ membership to be present to enable business to be conducted. I believe that means that all business we have conducted

in recent history is in violation of our constitution and that must be changed so that the club can function properly.

I have appointed Brian, KK4BK, and Bernie, N4BAJ, to assist me with the review of the constitution.

We only have one key to the radio room, which is kept in the lock box by the door. Members wishing to access the radio room should contact one of the officers for the key box combination.

New Business

Even though this was supposed to be a 'social' only type meeting, there were two items of business conducted because of timeframe limitations.

A motion to support the NC QSO Party award for 2023 was seconded and passed.

Steve Mowels brought up that Danny Hampton (K4ITL) has recently had to make several repairs to repeater equipment. Therefore, a motion to support Danny with additional funds in the amount of $600.00 was put forth, seconded and passed.

As is our custom at the December meeting, we awarded the 'Ham of the Year' to our VP, Rodney Warren, KO4ZFO, who was arm-twisted into the position just shortly after initially becoming licensed. Congratulations to Rodney on this award and for upgrading to General license class this past Saturday at a SWARC sponsored testing session.

Food for Thought

Once again, there was a lot of stimulating discussion around the tables. Some of the things discussed included the agreement between SWARC and AL Post 116. Mike Ramsey (KD4OKR) will follow up to see if he can find the backbone of our planned agreement that was never codified. Other discussion centered around the recently removed HF dipole antenna and how we might get it back up and perhaps even

erecting a tower in the spring. Standby for further news—we may enlist folks to help rehang the dipole in the near future.

President Richard, K7RLH, shared a recent email received that indicated a rare occurrence of tropospheric ducting allowing a ham in Pennsylvania (285 miles away) to pick up our repeater and have a QSO with folks late one evening. 'Tropo' ducting occurring during winter months is statistically pretty rare, so this was quite an interesting QSO.

Two other things were discussed: ordering name tags for new members and perhaps a new t-shirt with SWARC logo and no specific event, thus not dating the shirt.

Presentation Topic

NONE.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini presented a report with $2,143.64 balance prior to the disbursements approved under new business.

ME MBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.
Send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

Steve, WB4SMS

NET REPORT

SWARC Group – November 2022

We have four individuals who can be referred to as net check in champs for November; they are Bill, KK4QDZ, Al, WA4TCJ, Mark, KD7AAG, and Richard, K7RLH. The monthly total of check-ins was 239 which was down somewhat from October's numbers! Note that not all net controls record their counts so numbers could be higher than recorded.

•Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
•KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
•KA0GMY will call Tuesday evenings (backup is K7RLH)
•KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
•KJ4CVK will call Thursday evenings
•Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
•And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Richard Hall, K7RLH, if you are interested in calling one or more nets.

Public Service

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers.
Note: the public season is now closed until the spring.

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Richard Hall--K7RLH
Vice President
Rodney Warren—KO4ZFO
Secretary
Vacant
Treasurer
Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO
Member-At-Large
Al Crawford – WA4TCJ
Member-At-Large
Bernie Jones – N4BAJ
Member-At-Large
Mike Gaither –
K4MWG
Member-At-Large
Brian Knox--KK4BK
Membership Chair
Steve Suzanne—
WB4SMS

Appointed Positions

NET MANAGER
Kenny Souther-KJ4CVK
Special Events Director
Gino Fernandini –KI4YXO
Public Service Director
David Krum – NW3U

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN ***A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network***	www.ncprn.net
GigaParts	www.gigaparts.com
QRZ	www.qrz.com
Ham Radio Outlet HRO	www.hamradio.com
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS	www.rars.org
Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS	www.jars..net
South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC	www.southwakearc.com
Carolina 440 Network	www.carolina440.net
North Carolina Packet	www.ncpacket.com
TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)	www.tarpn.net
Useful Ham Info	www.torborg.com/a
Car Radio Development History	https://www.titlemax.com/articles/the-history-of-the-car-radio/

ARRL News

ARDC Awards Grant for New Amateur Radio Station

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) has awarded a $16,495 grant to fund a modern amateur radio station in the soon-to-open Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) in Huntsville, Alabama.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, ARDC Communications Manager, said the amateur station will be staffed and maintained by members of local amateur radio clubs, including the Radio Club of the MIE, who will install and operate the equipment and serve as docents for

the station. "Licensed amateurs can use the station to try out new modes and techniques without making a major financial commitment. Specialized tools and test equipment will be available to use on-site," said Romanchik.

The station will present a contrast between modern digital technology and the historic, yet classic equipment found in the museum's other exhibits. The juxtaposition of old and new is designed to illustrate the accelerating evolution of amateur radio.

Dr. Marcus Bendickson, Executive Director of the museum, said they expect to open in early fall 2023, and visitors will be able to explore the history of communication, computing innovation, and how these technologies have shaped our modern way of life.

A Christmas Message to the World

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24, 2022, the Alexander Grimeton Friendship Association, in southern Sweden will be on the air sending out a special Christmas message to the world.

The event will begin at 08:30 CET (07:30 UTC) with the startup and tuning of the Alexanderson alternator transmitter through Grimeton Radio Station, call sign SAQ. The transmission will begin at 09:00 CET (08:00 UTC) with the 98-year-old 200 kW Alexanderson alternator on 17.2 kHz CW.

Grimeton Radio Station, SK6SAQ, will be QRV (ready) on the following frequencies:

3.535 MHz CW
7.035 MHz CW
14.035 MHz CW
3.755 MHz SSB
7.140 MHz SSB

QSL reports can be sent to SK6SAQ via email at info@alexander.n.se.

The event will also be live streamed on the Alexander SAQ Grimeton Friendship Association YouTube Channel.

The Alexanderson alternator transmitter is the only remaining example of early pre-electronic radio transmitter technology. The station, built in 1922 - 1924, has been preserved as a historical site. From the 1920s through the 1940s, it was used to transmit telegram traffic by Morse code to North America and throughout the world during World War II.

More information about the December 24 Christmas Eve event and the transmitter can be found at the Grimeton Radio Station website.

New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the *2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool* to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing

the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of *The General Class License Manual*, and/or the 6th edition of *ARRL's General Q & A* are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.

Amateur Radio Operators and National Weather Service Mark SKYWARN Alliance

Saturday December 3, 2022 was SKYWARN® Recognition Day (SRD), an event that recognizes SKYWARN volunteers for their contribution to public safety. SRD was observed by several National Weather Service (NWS) locations across the United States. Amateur radio volunteers set up temporary operations from forecasting headquarters to make contacts with other stations to demonstrate their readiness to operate in emergency conditions and to act as observers for the NWS. As of the last count there were over 4,700 SKYWARN spotters taking part in SRD.

Near Los Angeles, California, at the NWS office located in Oxnard, volunteers set up six stations on different radio frequencies and operated through the day under simulated emergency conditions. Several members of the general public visited the NWS office during the exercise.

SKYWARN event coordinator Rick Tate, KQ6NO, operates from the Ventura County, California Sheriff's Emergency Operations trailer. Photo courtesy of Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR.

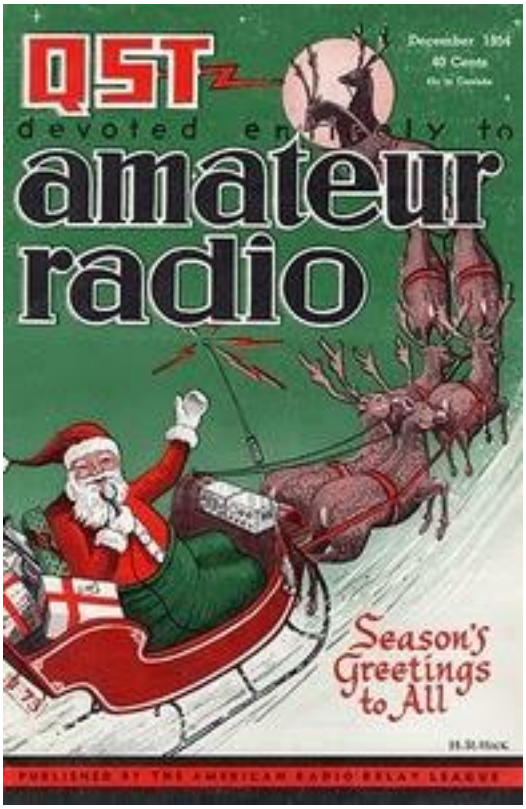
ARRL Headquarters, participating as WX1AW, was activated by ARRL Emergency Management Assistant Ken Bailey, K1FUG, during SRD. WX1AW was active on 40 - 10 meters using SSB and FT8 modes and monitored local VHF and UHF repeaters.

Radio amateurs participating as SKYWARN volunteers assist the NWS with real-time observations of adverse weather conditions that pose an imminent threat to life and property. Those alerts may include tornadoes, waterspouts, damaging hail, blizzard conditions, sleet, strong winds, heavy rainfalls and flooding, dust storms, damage assessment, and other significant anomalies. NWS personnel can utilize information from ham radio operators to issue alerts or assess threat levels to areas that may be affected by abnormal conditions.

The 2022 NWS Spotter of the Year Award was given to Bryan Loper, WX5CSS, of Atlanta, Texas. The award noted that Loper is very active with the amateur radio network and weather community within the Ark-La-Tex region, and is always reliable in providing weather reports. Loper is also an ARRL member.

Thanks to Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, Public Information Coordinator - ARRL Santa Barbara Section for contributing to this story.

Santa is On the Air Via Ham Radio



As Christmas approaches, many amateur radio clubs carry out an annual tradition of helping kids talk directly to Santa Claus while he is still at the North Pole before his big ride.

On Saturday, December 10, 2022, the Wallingford Amateur Radio Group in Connecticut will connect kids to Santa and Mrs. Claus via amateur radio during their Calling Santa event. The group organizes the event in cooperation with the Wallingford Health Department, Youth & Social Services, and support from an Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) grant to the Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC).

MARC President Dr. Ed Snyder, W1YSM, said this will be the third year for Calling Santa. "The location is ideal for this event," said Dr. Snyder. "Our communications van will be there, and the kids go inside and talk to Santa and Mrs. Claus on a real amateur radio. There will also be a fire truck, coloring books, crayons, and allergy-safe snacks." Each child will receive a full-color certificate signed by the Clauses.

Already in operation for the 16th consecutive year, The 3916 Nets are hosting the Santa Net on 3.916 MHz. Kids can talk to Santa Claus nightly via amateur radio at 7:00 PM CST now through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022. The shortwave net

welcomes radio amateurs to help their children and grandchildren get on the air to talk to Santa (third-party rules and regulations apply).

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, covering the Big Bend area of west Texas and based in Alpine, will have their 15th annual Santa Net ready to go on December 14, 2022. Local 2-meter repeaters are used to make the connection to Santa. The club highlights that "Santa Net introduces kids to ham radio." The event is promoted through the local elementary school and its teachers. Participants get a candy cane and a card commemorating the radio contact with Santa.

The ARRL Special Event Stations database is updated regularly and includes other Christmas and holiday-themed on-the-air events. You can search the database at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations, and use keyword searches such as "Christmas" or "holiday." Fill out the Special Events application form at www.arrl.org/special-events-application to add your event.

In Brief...

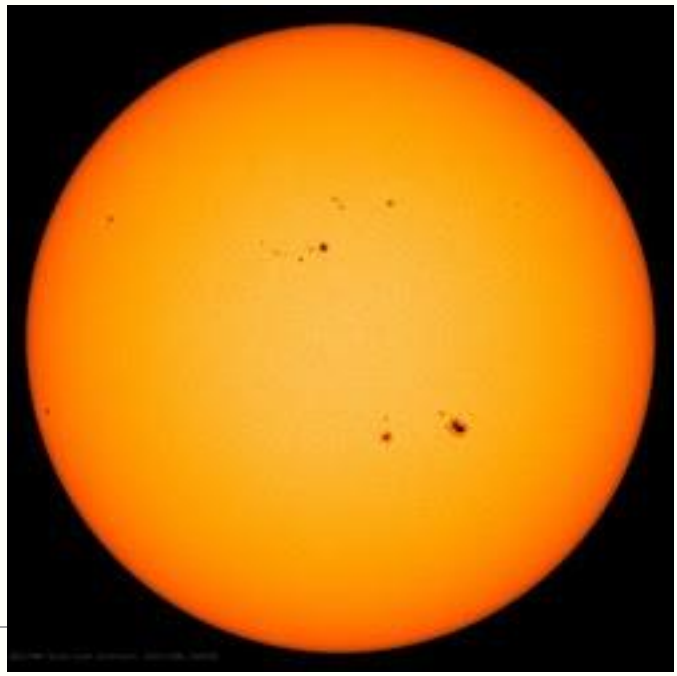
Rodney L. Linkous, W7OM, "a giant of Pacific Northwest (PNW) DXing and contesting," became a Silent Key on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, reports Danny Eskenazi, K7SS. He was 88 years old. Linkous was first licensed in 1949. For the recent CQ World Wide DX CW Contest on November 26 - 27, 2022, Linkous had over 500 QSOs running low power. In 2014 John Miller, K6MM, interviewed Linkous for the *National Contest Journal*; https://ncjweb.com/features/novdec14feat.pdf. *The Daily DX* reports Linkous was "instrumental" in the Western Washington DX Club. Linkous had 340/373 (current/total) confirmed contacts in the ARRL DXCC Mixed Standings, and 2,732 in the ARRL DXCC Challenge Standings.

The K7RA Solar Update

There is no report this week. A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service, read "What the Numbers Mean..." and check out the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin archive is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website.

Share your reports and observations.



Solar disk image taken December 8, 2022, courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI.

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- Lists **every** ham radio kit Heath ever made with photos, specs, tubes, and more
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- Also includes CB radios, clocks, and weather equipment, and a 60-page introduction and history of the company

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Just Ahead in Radiosport

- December 10 - 11 -- ARRL 10-Meter Contest (CW, phone)
- December 10 -- PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint (digital)
- December 10 - 11 -- TRC Digi Contest (digital)
- December 10 - 12 -- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (CW)
- December 10 - 11 -- ARI 40/80 Contest (CW, phone, digital)
- December 10 - 11 -- International Naval Contest (CW, phone)
- December 11 -- QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint (CW, phone)
- December 11 -- CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run (CW)
- December 12 -- Four State QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- December 14 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)
- December 14 -- 432 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (digital)

Visit the ARRL Contest Calendar for more events and information.

Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- December 9 - 10 | Tampa Bay Hamfest, hosting the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention, Plant City, Florida
- January 7 | Ham Radio University, hosting the ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Convention, an online event
- January 20 - 21 | Southwest Florida Regional Hamfest, hosting the ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention, Fort Myers, Florida
- January 27 - 28 | Capital City Hamfest 2023, hosting the ARRL Mississippi State Convention, Jackson, Mississippi
- January 28 | Winterfest, hosting the ARRL Midwest Division Convention, Collinsville, Illinois
- February 10 - 12 | Orlando HamCation, hosting the ARRL Southeastern Division

Convention, Orlando, Florida

- February 25 | HAM-CON, hosting the ARRL Vermont State Convention, Colchester, Vermont

Search the ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database to find events in your area.

Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to news@arrl.org. -- *John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News Editor*

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- Listen to *ARRL Audio News*, available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the Blind-hams Groups.io email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.

Subscribe to...

- *NCJ -- National Contest Journal*. Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.
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